FBIS DAILY REPORT

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DECREE ORDERS DEMOBILIZATION OF ARMED FORCES

FY011439 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1155 GMT 1 Feb 79 FY

[Text] Buenos Aires, 1 Feb (TELAM)--Decree No 199 issued by the national executive branch and published today in the official bulletin says that "the results obtained through the exercises and procedures established in the mobilization plan determine that it is suitable to gradually release the personnel who have been called up." The decree orders the demobilization, as of the date of the decree, of the personnel "in the manner and at the rate to be established by the commander in chief of each of the armed forces." The expenditures involved in the fulfillment of the decree will be charged to the special account established for the army, air force and navy commands to comply with the law.

ARMY COMMANDER LT GENERAL VIOLA ADDRESSES TROOPS

FY311553 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1030 GMT 31 Jan 79 FY

[Text] Army commander, Lt Gen Roberto Eduardo Viola has visited the Rio Gallegos 24th Motorized Infantry. General Viola arrived in an army plane at the local airport at 1150, where he was met by V Corps commander Gen Jose Antonio Vaquero and other military officials. Viola was accompanied by the army secretary general, Brig Gen Angel Barbieri.

After reviewing the troops and taking part in a religious ceremony, General Viola delivered a message to the troops. He said: Because of the foresight and the tolerance and firmness with which the government of the armed forces carried out the negotiations, the pope, with benevolence and a Christian attitude, accepted the mediation in the conflict our country has with Chile. Therefore, we have now entered a new stage. We are going to try to win a war in peace. We are willing to exhaust all means for a mature coexistence based on justice and equity in accordance with our historic tradition. We are ready to carry out a less noisy but more complete battle, using the arms of dialog--a dialog which, as John Paul II said, does not preclude rights and widens the possibilities of peace, thus honoring those who have had the courage and wisdom to become reconciled against all obstacles.

In conclusion, General Viola said he is proud to be the head of the Argentine Army and asked the troops to answer his call to obedience and courage.

Just before returning to the federal capital, General Viola talked briefly with reporters and said that the nation is now beginning a new stage of accomplishments through which the great objectives of the national reorganization process will be fulfilled. Viola said that 1979 will be a decisive year in carrying out the process of dialog and participation which the armed forces will enforce.

GENERAL VIDELA INTERVIEWED BY MADRID ABC

LD011115 Madrid ABC in Spanish 23 Jan 79 pp 29-30 LD

[Carlos Mendo interview in Buenos Aires with President Videla: "We Want a Peaceful Solution to the Beagle Channel Dispute"--date not specified]

[Excerpt] [Question] I have come from Chile, where I spent a week, and what I observed most clearly at the level of the people was perhaps anxiety about Argentina's mobilization. Do the measures envisaged in the Montevideo agreement for returning to the 1977 situation include the demobilization of those who have been drafted?

[Answer] First, I would like to point out that when problems which could affect sovereignty are involved, the armed forces clearly cannot remain uninvolved in this kind of situation, and, as such, they must have a degree of preparation which will enable them, if necessary, to safeguard precisely that heritage whose sovereignty could be threatened.

In this connection I believe that both Chileans and Argentines, aware of their responsibility, have made some kind of military preparations. As far as Argentina is concerned, there is a mutual pledge in the document which was signed in the presence of and at the request of Cardinal Samore to reverse the situation to what it was in early 1977. This, in our opinion, means reestablishing the balance existing in the area at that time. It is, of course, necessary, in order to achieve that aim, to take a series of appropriate steps; one of them is the withdrawal of military forces--in this instance, those of Argentina--which had been brought up to the potential conflict zone, withdrawing them to their places of origin.

It also includes the demobilization--if that is the right term--of that personnel drafted to complete some armed forces units.

We believe that this reveals a gesture on the part of both countries--perhaps the most eloquent one--which indicates that we are prepared to find the solution to this conflict by peaceful means.

[Question] Could you explain to us the aims of the political normalization process in which your government is engaged?

[Answer] In principle we do not wish to speak of timetables but of realizing aims. These first 3 years have been a stage of establishing basic order, to such an extent that we can already say that we are in a position, and have achieved sufficient maturity, to be able to begin a further stage in this process--a stage of creativity. That is, to start working with imagination, enthusiasm and optimism about the future on the outlines of that modern, stable and strong democracy which we want for our descendants.

[Question] Could you define these concepts for us?

[Answer] It will be strong because it will contain all the elements which will make it immune to subtle threats or attacks, such as those of terrorist subversion. This does not mean a democracy which will be strong because of its physical strength but one which will be strong because of an entire set of institutions, laws and so forth which preserve it from those very subtle threats.

It will be stable in order to avoid the seesawing which has been so characteristic of our country in recent years, between strong military governments which devoted themselves purely to regimentation and civilian governments which, because of the temptation of demogoguery, became weak governments and were successively replaced by military personnel.

And last, it will be modern because we believe that the world has changed and, in the light of that world as it is and as we would like it to be, Argentine democracy must be updated.

International Campaign

[Question] Is the campaign in important countries of the world about Argentina with respect to the human rights issue harming Argentina's image and Argentina's relations with certain countries, and what effect is this having on the normalization plan to which you have just been referring?

[Answer] My answer is positively yes. That campaign exists and is a reality which, in my opinion, is based on two circumstances: one of them is lack of information or misinformation about what is happening in Argentina, matters being viewed from places as distant as Europe or the United States, and, on the basis of this lack of information and also taking advantage of the public's good faith to some extent, there is a distortion of the information which is not fortuitous but quite premeditated, with a view to creating those images which seem fine to those who are misinformed, as if they were real facts, but do not correspond to the situation in Argentina.

The aim of this was--and is--to isolate Argentina from the rest of the world. Obviously, in a world as interdependent as the present-day world, anybody who became isolated would probably perish as a result of inanition, and if Argentina had been on the verge of inanition, it would have fallen again into chaos, in which subversive terrorism would have found its breeding ground to be reborn like the phoenix.

That is, this is due to a maneuver, a plan which goes beyond what we can handle and want. Of course this creates difficulties for us with countries which because of misinformation or through having distorted information have sought to criticize internal aspects of our country, which accepts only the judgment of its children--the Argentines. And I say this because if we are struggling for anything and if the blood of workers, priests, businessmen, military personnel and policemen has been generously shed for anything, it has been precisely in order to preserve human rights, on the basis of the Argentine people's human right to determine their own destiny in accordance with the traditional way of life inspired by a Christian view of mankind and the world which there was an attempt to violate by means of terrorist aggression and a maneuver aimed at internal intimidation.

We struggled against that maneuver. Of course there was bloodshed, but that bloodshed had to be contemplated precisely in order to succeed in asserting the values which have given us our identity as a nation, because they--including that human right of the Argentine people to determine their own destiny--were gravely threatened.

[Question] I have been informed that an OAS commission will be coming here in May.

[Answer] A visit by the Inter-American Human Rights Commission is scheduled, and we believe that that commission is not coming in an inquisitorial spirit but in order to make contact with us with a view to finding out and achieving understanding through dialog, which is what we want.

CORDOBA PROVINCE GOVERNOR RESIGNS; INTERIM NAMED

PY012229 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2205 GMT 1 Feb 79 PY

[Text] Buenos Aires, 1 Feb (TELAM)--The public information secretariat reported that today at 1700 the governor of Cordoba Province, Brig Gen Carlos Bernardo Chasseing (ret), presented his resignation to the president of the nation.

The resignation was accepted by Decree 323, which also designates Col Miguel Angel Marini (ret), the present minister of government of Cordoba, as the interim governor.

FURTHER REPORTAGE ON STATUS OF PARANA NEGOTIATIONS

PY010130 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 2332 GMT 31 Jan 79 PY

[Excerpt] Brasilia, 31 Jan (LATIN)--The trilateral negotiations among Argentina, Brasil and Paraguay to harmonize the Itaipu and Corpus dams seemed today to be on the verge of failure after more than a year of talks. Through the official spokesman for Itamaraty, Brazilian Foreign Minister Antonio Azeredo da Silveira remarked today on recent events concerning this issue which occurred in Argentina yesterday. He stated that "he fears that more than a year of patient and constructive efforts are being annulled." Azeredo da Silveira's statement, conveyed by Luis Felipe Lampreia to newsmen, asserted that the Brazilian foreign minister "believes that the Rio de Janeiro document which brought about concrete negotiations capable of harmonizing the interests of the three countries is being annulled by recent developments."

The foreign minister's opinion was reported immediately after the press had been given a press communique by Itamaraty concerning the evolution of the recent trilateral talks.

In three articles, Itamaraty stated that yesterday the Argentine Foreign Ministry "stated to Ambassador (of Brazil in Buenos Aires) Claudio Garcia de Souza the formula for the flexibility of the Corpus waterhead with respect to the operation of 20 turbines in Itaipu."

However, yesterday afternoon "the Brazilian ambassador in Buenos Aires received an Argentine proposal with an amended text of the document signed by the representatives of the three countries in Rio de Janeiro last September, with the explanation and confirmation that Admiral Horacio Raul Colombo (the special envoy sent by Argentine Foreign Minister Carlos Pastor to Brasilia and Asuncion), in effect, did not bring to Brasilia the formula as mentioned" in the previous article, according to the communique's second point.

"The new Argentine document, although it does not include said formula, introduces substantial modifications to the text of the Rio de Janeiro agreement, as well as to those formulas discussed in Punta del Este (during last December), and goes far beyond the proposals presented by Admiral Colombo in Brasilia in January, this month," according to the communique's third point.

Finally, it was added that "in view of these new developments the Brazilian Government is reconsidering its position with regard to the issue."

CORRECTION TO REPORT ON FOREIGN TRADE POLICY

In the article entitled "JORNAL DO BRASIL Discusses Foreign Trade Policy," published on page D 1 of the 31 January Latin America DAILY REPORT, paragraph 3, lines 12 and 13 should read as follows: "We will drop the export subsidies in exchange for the elimination of the advance deposit for imports and the gradual acceleration of minidevaluations."

BRIEFS

ALCOHOL-RUN ELECTRICITY PLANTS--The Mines and Energy Ministry will build electricity plants run by alcohol extracted from mandioca and sugarcane in places where there are no conditions for hydroelectric dams. A prototype of this plant is located in the municipality of Caucaia, Ceara State, which will produce 12,000 liters of alcohol daily to feed a turbogenerator run by alcohol, with a capacity of 500 kw. [Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 29 Jan 79 PY]

EXTREMIST CELL ARRESTED 30 JANUARY BY SECURITY FORCES

PY011840 Santiago Chile Domestic Service in Spanish 1630 GMT 1 Feb 79 PY

[Relay from the Diego Portales Building]

[Text] Interior Minister Sergio Fernandez has confirmed the arrest of a six-member extremist cell, presumably communist, in Vallenar. According to the report, the arrests were made on 30 January by carabineros personnel and the arrested persons have been placed at the disposal of the 1st Military Court of Antofagasta. They will be tried for having violated the law regarding the control of weapons because explosives and subversive pamphlets were found in their possession. Following is the list of the persons who have been arrested: (Adrian Arriagada Pobleti), 62; (Amado Campuzano Ceura), 40; (Ricardo Belarco Quintacara), 41; (David Parra Adriazola), 32; (Luis Palacios Lopez); and (Eugenio Sagredo Aguilar), 22.

According to the minister, the explosives and subversive pamphlets were found in a house which the group used for meetings. Fernandez also reported that an investigation is being carried out on an alleged connection between this cell and the extremist group arrested recently in Copiapo which was made up of three people. Regarding this latter group, the interior minister recalled that a judge has already been named.

The chief of the cabinet asserted in conclusion that calm reigns throughout the country due to the fact that the security services are always ready to follow up any clue that will lead to extremists.

Cell Identified as Communist

PY020103 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 0020 GMT 2 Feb 79 PY

[Text] Santiago, Chile, 1 Feb (LATIN)--Interior Minister Sergio Fernandez disclosed here today that six militants of the illegal Chilean Communist Party were arrested in a city in the northern part of the country after they were caught by surprise with explosives and Marxist propaganda. The minister said that the cell, made up of five men and a woman, was carrying out clandestine activities, using as their meeting place a house located in the city of Vallenar, 661 km northeast of Santiago. Minister Fernandez also stated that the persons arrested were placed at the disposition of the military courts to be tried for illegal possession of explosives and for violation of the state internal security law.

JUDGE SAYS BODIES WERE THOSE OF MISSING PERSONS

PY012225 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2206 GMT 1 Feb 79 PY

[Text] Santiago, Chile, 1 Feb (TELAM-ANSA)--The bodies which were found in a lime mine located near the Chilean capital were those of persons reported as "missing" by their relatives, according to Judge Adolfo Banadas, who is investigating the case.

Banadas, who has the rank of "visiting minister" ["ministro en visita"] and has more power than a regular magistrate, stated that the investigation he is conducting is limited to finding a relation between the bodies found (the number of which could not be specified due to their condition, but was estimated at about 20) and persons reported "missing" in the area of the find.

However, the judge today admitted that "if the legal medical institute tells me that the bodies are not from this area, then I will have to expand my investigation to include missing persons from all over the country."

ARMY CORPORAL, TWO GUERRILLAS DIE IN CLASHES

PA312125 Paris AFP in Spanish 1816 GMT 31 Jan 79 PA

[Text] Bogota, 31 Jan (AFP)--The Defense Ministry has reported here that an army non-commissioned officer and two guerrillas were killed and two civilians were wounded during battles today between regular army troops and guerrillas in Colombia's Santander Department.

The first skirmish took place in the town of Convencion, in northern Santander, which had been occupied by members of the Castroite National Liberation Army [ELN]. Two civilians were wounded during the incursion and the rebels, who numbered approximately 50, fled into the mountains with food and medicine after distributing revolutionary propaganda.

The other clash took place near Cimitarra, in the department's southern region, between troops of the 5th Army Brigade and members of the pro-Soviet Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC). A corporal and two guerrillas died during this clash. The army seized several weapons and field equipment.

The ELN was assisted by members of the Camilo Torres commando group, part of the pro-Chinese Popular Liberation Army (EPL).

The EPL became inactive in the mountains a long time ago when government forces killed two brothers of Fabio Vasquez Castano, founder and former top ELN leader. The former guerrilla leader fell out of grace some years ago and his whereabouts are now unknown.

ARMY OFFICER BEING INVESTIGATED FOR ALLEGED M-19 LINKS

PA011959 Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 1100 GMT 1 Feb 79 PA

[Text] Bogota--Lt Col Genaro (Yungo) Mendez is under investigation as part of the inquest being made into the M-19 extremist organization, it has been learned from reliable sources. The high-ranking army officer unexpectedly resigned as the prosecutor in the superior military court and, according to reports, has been retired from active army service.

(Yungo) is one of the best known figures in military criminal prosecution circles. He was the prosecutor in the verbal court martial that tried the alleged assassins of Gen Ramon Arturo Rincon Quinones, who was armed forces inspector general.

The sources said that (Yungo) is under investigation because it has been discovered that he deposited checks from (Pronomedico), the enterprise used by the M-19 as a front for its various activities, in his bank account.

Although Colonel (Yungo) has not been arrested because his links with the M-19 have not been fully proven, there is great expectation in regard to this case and the high military commands are expected to issue a statement in the next few hours.

Colonel (Yungo) is the author of the famous phrase "it is best to sentence an innocent defendant than to acquit 100 guilty ones." He has been superior judge advocate, justice of the superior military court and inspector of the assistant attorney general's office for military forces and has taken courses in Spain to specialize in criminal law.

MINISTER VOWS TO CONTINUE FIGHT AGAINST SUBVERSIVES

PA012345 Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1730 GMT 1 Feb 79 PA

[Text] In Bogota today the armed forces vehemently warned that they and the government are determined to give subversives the proper treatment and will use all the means they have at hand, without reservations. Defense Minister Gen Luis Carlos Camacho Leyva said today that the campaign to counter subversion must be a continual one, because it is necessary to defend the democratic system in which we live and believe. That is why it is up to the armed forces, the national police and the Administrative Department of Security to make a special effort to reduce to impotence those who persist in their subversive designs. This must also be done by implementing progressive projects in neglected areas.

In an editorial carried today by the armed forces newspaper the defense minister referred to the theft of arms by the M-19 movement and said that those who carried out that mad adventure misjudged the armed forces' capacity to react. They mistook its defense capacity and fortunately committed big mistakes which were immediately used by military intelligence against them. The minister added that the subversives forgot that they were confronting a tightly knit, competent, professional organization which is not arrogant but will accept any challenge. The minister said that prompt military action confused the subversives and the self-styled chief of the M-19 quikly went into hiding carrying his flag.

The defense minister said that both the country and the military must remain on the alert in the face of subversive challenges. He pointed out that the blows dealt by the army to the enemies of order do not mean that the final battle has been won. He noted that it is necessary for the armed forces and citizens to remain continuously alert. The minister said that the undeclared spokesmen of the subversives, who are their spokesmen nevertheless, are already awakening, are writing, and have adopted the strategy of counterattack. But not to promote the M-19 but to discredit the armed forces which were challenged with miserable results. The defense minister concluded by warning that in the struggle against subversion their will be no truce by either the government or armed forces.

MILITARY UNITS DISCOVER ANOTHER M-19 WEAPONS CACHE

PA020228 Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 0000 GMT Feb 79 PA

[Text] The national Defense Ministry has confirmed that another M-19 arsenal was discovered by army units during a raid in the town of Cajamarca. Members of the military intelligence service found 10 .30-caliber carbines, 16-gauge shotguns, shells for these weapons and M-19 propaganda inside a dwelling belonging to a poor family. A military spokesman said that two residents of the house were arrested, however, he did not identify them. It could not be determined whether the weapons which were discovered had been among those stolen late last year by the M-19 from the Military Institutes Brigade's northern canton arsenal.

DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS ESTABLISHED WITH NEW ZEALAND

PA012125 Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1730 GMT 1 Feb 79 PA

[Text] Colombia established diplomatic relations with the Government of New Zealand today. The Foreign Ministry explained that the relations will be at the level of nonresident ambassadors. President Turbay will authorize his ambassador to Japan to represent him in New Zealand. On its part, New Zealand will be represented in Colombia by its ambassador to Peru, Gordon Noel Parkington, who will soon present his credentials to President Turbay Ayala.

TRANSPORTATION MINISTER, THREE GOVERNORS RESIGN

PA011626 Caracas Radio Continente Network in Spanish 1000 GMT 1 Feb 79 PA

[Text] Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez has confirmed that Transport and Communications Minister Jose Enrique Vivas Casanova and three governors resigned from their posts. He noted that the governors who resigned are those of Bolivar, Sucre and another state which he could not recall at the time.

POLICE SEARCHING FOR PRESUMED DOMINICAN SUBVERSIVES

PA311824 Caracas Radio Continente Network in Spanish 1000 GMT 31 Jan 79 PA

[Text] The Judicial Technical Police [PTJ] are seeking four Dominican gunmen presumably linked to subversion in connection with the robbery of the Banco de Venezuela branch in Carupano. [Words indistinct] took the money out of Venezuela to finance subversive activities in their country.

The gunmen allegedly entered the country illegally 4 weeks ago with ample time to stage the robbery. They made off with over 3.3 million bolivares. The PTJ has launched a nationwide operation, concentrating on the eastern region, in conjunction with the directorate of intelligence and prevention services to capture the Dominican gunmen.

PEREZ SEES KEY ROLE FOR NATION IN OIL EMERGENCY

PA011611 Paris AFP in Spanish 0229 GMT [illegible]'9 PA

[Text] Caracas, 31 Jan (EFE)--President [illegible] Andres Perez has said here that Venezuela, as a responsible country with [illegible] be capable of assisting the world in an oil emergency.

Perez, who yesterday conferred with John O[illegible]'Leary, deputy secretary of energy, said that he reminded O'Leary that Venezuela's oil not only has the commercial value fixed by OPEC (Organization of Oil-Exporting Countries), but a strategic value for the West which is even greater than its market price.

"It is obvious that there is no stable country in the Middle East at this moment. Venezuela is the only safe oil source the United States has today," Perez added.

The chief of state said that he is in favor of exploring for oil in the Orinoco oil belt, the world's largest reserve of crude oil, in order to increase the country's reserves and to enable it "to assist the world, within its capabilities, and, of course, if an emergency arises."

Perez, whose presidential term expires in March, recalled that Venezuela's oil production has been reduced by his administration from 3.4 million to 2.2 million barrels a day for conservation purposes and also to defend oil prices.

COMMUNISTS WILL NOT REGISTER IN OTHER PARTIES

PA010218 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 31 Jan 79 pp 1, 18 PA

[Text] The Central Committee of the People's Party [PDP] decided at a plenary meeting held last weekend that no member of that organization will be able to register in any other party. According to a communique signed by PDP Secretary General Ruben D. Souza, "it is the duty of all party members to maintain the firmest stance by preventing the development of rightwing opportunistic tendencies which seek to place passing interests that offer immediate advantage above the permanent interests of the revolution--a situation which would turn any alliance into a 'hodgepodge'--and also by avoiding leftwing sectarianism, characterized by a negation of alliances of any kind, a situation which is equally damaging because it would isolate the revolutionary vanguard from other forces seeking social change."

The communique also notes that "the plenum has decided that parties such as the Democratic Revolutionary Party and the People's Broad Front Party are needed in the advance as long as, in keeping with their multiclass nature, they follow the most progressive guidelines outlined by General Torrijos during his administration, as long as they adopt an anti-imperialist and antioligarchic program of national liberation and as long as they favor the formation of a national anti-imperialist front in order to complete the present phase of national liberation."

The measures adopted by the PDP political bureau were adopted in accordance with a policy of alliance, "which should not lead to the distortion of communists."

In this regard the communique notes that "the plenum showed that the policy of allying with other forces in an attempt to eliminate colonialism from the Canal Zone, to bring about the popular democratization of the state and economic development with social change, has been correct because it has been aimed at confronting the traditional enemies of the Panamanian people and our nation: the oligarchy and Yankee imperialism. On opening this new phase during which a new level is attained by the existence of political parties, the alliance should be improved, taking into consideration the interests of the revolutionary process, the common objectives of the various allies and the PDP's interests according to its legality, political independence and definition as a Marxist-Leninist party clearly establishing that it is necessary to maintain and preserve one's own identity."

BUTCHERS' UNION CALLS STRIKE OF INDEFINITE DURATION

PA301624 Panama City LA REPUBLICA in English 29 Jan 79 p 12-A PA

[Excerpts] Most meat stalls in public markets, independent butcher shops and supermarkets in Panama City were empty today, as the butchers' union called a strike of indefinite duration to protest the recent increases in prices set by beef suppliers.

Despite the continuous increases, said union Secretary General Enrique Garibaldo, "we have been unable to hike our prices to the consumers because of ceiling prices set by the price control office."

Butchers in the Chiriqui Province are also reported to have gone on strike in support of the Panama group, and arrangements were underway at noon to have the Colon butchers join the protest.

"We are conscious of the fact that the nation is now undergoing an economic crisis, but it isn't fair that the suppliers be permitted to continuously increase their prices at our expense," Garibaldo pointed out, adding he looked forward to a prompt solution of the situation by government officials "at the very highest level."

GOVERNMENT INCREASES PRICE OF PETROLEUM PRODUCTS

PA010334 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2315 GMT 31 Jan 79 PA

[31 January press conference held in the Presidency's Yellow Room with oil price increase commission coordinator Adames and Presidency Minister Rogelio Fabrega--recorded]

[Excerpts] The decreed petroleum price increase will follow the percentage of increase instituted by OPEC. The first quarter increase will become effective 1 February. Successive increases in other quarters will be announced only if OPEC increases materialize. In other words, if OPEC prices rise, corresponding adjustments will be made. Since what really interests people is how much prices will increase, I will give you the list of current prices for each product followed by the increase decreed for the first quarter and the final increase in the event further increases are actually announced.

Thus, the current price of premium gasoline is $1.10. As of tomorrow the new price will be $1.15. Regular gasoline will increase from $1.00 to $1.05. Kerosene will go from $0.55 to $0.60; diesel fuel from $0.55 to $0.59. Bunker-C will increase from $34.99 to $37.48. A 25-pound container of LPG [cooking gas], which is the size most frequently used, will go from $4.00 to $4.25. The 60-pound container will increase from $9.13 to $9.97; the 100-pound container will go from $15.42 to $16.35.

In the event that other increases materialize, by the end of the year we would have the following prices: premium gasoline would cost $1.20; regular gasoline $1.10; kerosene $0.64; diesel $0.63; Bunker-C, $40.19; LPG (25 pounds) $4.45; LPG (60 pounds) $10.43; and LPG (100 pounds) $17.13.

[Fabrega] A large part of [this morning's] cabinet council was dedicated to studying the status of three staples--coffee, oil and meat. After long debate it seemed advisable to adopt a general price policy rather than to announce changes every time there are changes on the international market for certain products.

For this reason the cabinet decided this morning to appoint a price and wage commission which will be coordinated by Presidency Vice Minister Eli Abbo and will include the labor minister, the commerce and industry minister, the agricultural development minister and the director of the price regulation office. This commission is to be permanent, but due to the situation of the three products mentioned, it has been specifically instructed to present a final conclusion after a very short time. The deadline they have been given is very short and is of top priority to this commission.

BRIEFS

WORLD BANK LOAN--Nicolas Ardito Barletta, vice president of the World Bank, has signed a loan of $15 million for the Panamanian National Financial Corporation [COFINA]. It is part of a $40 million package to be financed by the World Bank. Panama has 15 years in which to pay the loan, with a grace period of 3 years, at a 7.5 percent interest rate. [Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 1730 GMT 24 Jan 79 PA]

COSTA RICA

TRADE CONFLICT WITH PANAMA CONTINUES

PA012321 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1730 GMT 1 Feb 79 PA

[Text] The situation at Paso Canoa is still critical. Freddy Morera, a high-ranking customs official at Paso Canoa, said yesterday that the situation remains the same as far as Costa Rican trade is concerned because Panamanians are not allowing any Costa Rican products to cross the border. The conflict has arisen because the government reduced the taxes on products regarded as luxury items. Costa Ricans bought these items in Panama in view of the difference in prices. Morera said that Costa Rica has taken no reprisals against Panama.

PRESIDENT CARAZO FAVORS AGROINDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

PA011533 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1200 GMT 1 Feb 79 PA

[Text] A change in government policy as far as giving protection to industry is concerned will take place soon, President Rodrigo Carazo announced yesterday. It is necessary to transfer part of the national revenue to agriculture and livestock activities and other sectors that are more productive than industry, which is overprotected by the government.

Costa Ricans have toyed with industrial development, which has focused on importing large amounts of products while we export very little, President Rodrigo Carazo said. In view of this situation, the government is compelled to implement new policies in order to use funds in more productive sectors. A few days ago, the finance minister announced that it will be necessary to reduce protection for industry as far as imports are concerned and to use those funds in other sectors. Carazo shares the view that we cannot believe that the country's development is based on industry, but on diversification with agro-industry. The president went on to say that it is necessary to transfer part of the national revenue to agriculture and livestock development as the only way to achieve the country's full development.

EL SALVADOR

ERP BOMBS POLICE, NATIONAL GUARD HEADQUARTERS

PA011833 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1432 GMT 1 Feb 79 PA

[Text] San Salvador, 1 Feb (ACAN-EFE)--San Salvador's police and National Guard headquarters were attacked with bombs today. The explosions caused property damage and left several persons wounded. The bombs were thrown by elements of the clandestine Revolutionary People's Army [ERP].

The two headquarters have been under strict vigilance over the past few months to the extent that speed bumps have been placed in front of the National Guard headquarters, forcing drivers to slow down.

The bomb which exploded at the National Guard headquarters wounded several persons, including agents Alfredo Arriaza, Ever Adonay Moran Gonzalez and Jose del Carmen Deran Figueroa.

The National Guard headquarters is located on the city's north side while the police headquarters is located in downtown San Salvador in a concrete building which was built at the beginning of the century.

The bomb thrown at the police headquarters started a fire which damaged several vehicles. Firemen went to the scene to extinguish it.

Several patrol cars have been moving about the capital with their sirens wailing, thus asking for the right-of-way. Several have passed by this agency's offices going in the direction of the Rosales hospital.

Other bombs were placed in the offices of the National Conciliation Party in the neighboring town of Mejicanos, 4 km north of San Salvador, and another in the Community Improvement Office, which is engaged in working with poor areas.

ERP Issues Communique

PA011937 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1635 GMT 1 Feb 79 PA

[Be Rene Contreras]

[Text] San Salvador, 1 Feb (ACAN-EFE)--According to initial reports, the explosions in three [as received] garrisons which left a toll of several wounded and dead were caused by boobytrap devices. Details on how the devices were detonated were provided in a communique sent to ACAN-EFE by the Revolutionary People's Army (ERP).

The communique said the group's "zapadores" squadrons staged the "long live the 20 January martyres" operation which consisted of detonating boobytrap devices inside the garrisons. The reference was to the day on which the National Guard occupied an office of the San Salvador archbishopric and killed Father Octavio Ortiz Luna and four civilians. Government authorities had said that they were subversives and had put up armed resistance. The guard also arrested 20 minors and 20 adults, who were later released by the courts.

The ERP explained that today, Thursday, it detonated three regular bombs in the office of the National Democratic Organization (ORDEN), which is close to the government, in the town of Mejicanos, 4 km north of downtown San Salvador. Two other devices exploded in the government's Community Improvement Office (OMCOM), which works in slum areas, and a third in the office of the mayor of San Miguel, located 138 km east of the capital, the subversive communique stated.

It added that the objective of those bombs was to establish the condition that would lead the security corps to find the booby trap devices. These were placed in the Labor Ministry in San Salvador and in a taxi near the home of former President Col Arturo Armando Molina. In the taxi case, the subversives even simulated a confrontation to attract the attention of the National Guard. The San Miguel boobytrap was left in the office of the department's governor, the ERP communique said.

It added that the charges were left in those places so that the security corps could find them, deactivate a false mechanism in them and then take them to their respective garrisons, where a special mechanism would detonate the charges at 0730 (1330 GMT).

The ERP communique subsequently made some ideological statements and emphasized that the operation was in answer to what happened at the archbishopric's office in San Antonio Abad, about 5 km west of downtown San Salvador.

The explosion killed seven persons in the San Miguel National Guard garrison, according to initial reports which have still not been confirmed officially.

There were several dead and wounded at the San Salvador National Guard and National Police headquarters, but this has not yet been confirmed.

Official Rejects State of Siege

PA011938 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1658 GMT 1 Feb 79 PA

[By Rosendo Majano H.]

[Excerpt] San Salvador, 1 Feb (ACAN-EFE)--The Salvadoran Government today discarded the possibility of implementing a state of siege in the country, despite a new wave of terrorism which resulted in several National Guard and police casualties.

Col Rafael Flores Lima, the secretary of information of the Presidency of the Republic, told ACAN-EFE today that the suspension of constitutional guarantees has definitely not been contemplated. He added that they are awaiting a Defense Ministry report on today's bloody incidents.

Unofficial reports have revealed that eight uniformed agents and two civilians were killed, including Francisco Antonio Machado, a 14-year-old minor.

In San Miguel, 138 km east of San Salvador, the agents picked up a bomb at the departmental political governor's office and took it to the National Guard garrison to deactivate it. However, the bomb had another mechanism which was not discovered by the agents and it exploded there.

The following persons died there: Guardsmen Medardo Rosales, Nazario Gonzalez, Manuel de Jesus Perez Mejia, Jose Dimas Ruiz, Jose Rigoberto Alvarado Ochoa, a bricklayer, and Machado, a minor. Juan Antonio Rosas was injured. Various military elements were injured at the National Guard and police headquarters in San Salvador but the number of persons injured has not yet been revealed.

Archbishopric Condemns Bombings

PA020424 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0050 GMT 2 Feb 79 PA

[Excerpts] San Salvador, 1 Feb (ACAN-EFE)--The archbishopric of San Salvador, the priests of the archdio se and "all Christian united with their shepherd" this afternoon voiced their rejectio of today's violetn incidents in the capital and in San Miguel, in the eastern part of the country, where 16 persons were killed and an undetermined number wounded.

A communique released by the capital city's archbishopric says that the archbishopric had learned about the explosions of several bombs in various parts of the country, including the headquarters of several security bodies, from the local news media.

The communique adds that these new violent incidents constitute further violation of human rights and condemns the violent deaths and injuries inflicted on these persons, 14 police agents and 2 civilians, among them a 14-year-old youth.

The archbishopric declares that the church of the archdiocese "with a sense of indignation and pain repeats 'enough' to the violence and the blood bath that threatens to drown us all."

It confirms the church's position, voicing its opposition to vengeance, hatred and violence as means of resolving the nation's problems.

The document finally appeals to the commonsense and moral principles of all Salvadorans to end the violence and death in the country.

The archbishopric's Social Communications Secretariat expresses its heartfelt condolences to the relatives of the security agents and civilians killed today.

FPL CONDUCTS TWO PROPAGANDA ACTIONS

Occupies Radio Station

PA011536 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0440 GMT 1 Feb 79 PA

[Excerpt] Santa Ana, El Salvador, 31 Jan (ACAN-EFE)--Members of the clandestine Popular Liberation Forces (FPL) occupied Radio Musical in this city tonight, Wednesday. Santa Ana is the second most important city in El Salvador and is located 66 km west of San Salvador, the capital.

After tying up radio announcer Jaime Tejada Torres, who was working the last shift, the leftists transmitted a subversive statement criticizing Salvadoran Government officials and the United States.

Detonates Propaganda Bomb

PA011537 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1344 GMT 1 Feb 79 PA

[Text] Soyapango, El Salvador, 1 Feb (ACAN-EFE)--A bomb containing propaganda of the clandestine Popular Liberation Forces (FPL) exploded this evening, Wednesday, in this town, located 6 km east of San Salvador.

The explosion caused alarm, as it occurred in a downtown area. The police immediately mobilized to try and identify those responsible for this terrorist action.

DEMONSTRATION PROTESTS DEATH OF PRIEST ORTIZ LUNA

PA011204 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1730 GMT 31 Jan 79 PA

[Text] San Salvador--Some 400 priests and nuns yesterday carried out a demonstration downtown to protest the death of priest Octavio Ortiz Luna 8 days ago. The Salvadoran authorities said that they had not requested permission but, in an obvious effort to avoid a clash with the demonstrators, did not interfere with the demonstration.

PRIEST, NUN EXPELLED FOR ALLEGED LEFTIST ACTIVITIES

PA012106 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0506 GMT 1 Feb 79 PA

[Excerpt] San Salvador, 31 Jan (ACAN-EFE)--Placido Erdosain, a Spanish priest who has hosted the television program "El Minuto de Dios" for 10 years in El Salvador, and Maria Esther Lopez, a Mexican nun, were asked to leave the country for allegedly carrying out political acitivites for the left. Father Erdosain left for Mexico today and Sister Lopez left for Guatemala by land.

The archbishopric in San Salvador did not make any comments on the incident.

PLANNING MINISTER DISCUSSES GOVERNMENT'S 1979 PLANS

PA020239Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0812 GMT 1 Feb 79 PA

[By Rosendo Majano H.]

[Text] San Salvador, 31 Jan (ACAN-EFE)--The Salvadoran Government announced today that 1,168,000,000 colones ($467.2 million) will be spent on public works and for loans to small and medium-sized agricultural businessmen during 1979.

Planning Minister Jose Eduardo Reyes said at a news conference that of this total, 653 million colones ($261.2 million) will be invested in public works and the rest will be used to provide loans to small and medium-sized farmers and industrialists, to expand services and to supply low-cost housing.

The high-ranking official, who was accompanied at the news conference by his principal advisers and by the presidency's information secretary, Col Rafael Flores Lima, stressed that the adverse effects on international trade and the pressures on prices resulting from the contraction of the world's economy will continue to have negative effects on the Salvadoran Government's domestic development efforts.

He added that an anti-inflation program is currently underway and is aimed at reducing the effects of inflation to such a degree that prices increase by no more than 8 percent. According to Reyes, trade with the other Central American countries shows good prospects for growth but exhibits a weak tendency created, he said, by the imbalances of the regional Common Market.

He also noted that the Salvadoran Government's action program for the present year is aimed primarily at social progress and provides strong support for the lower-income sectors, particulary in the areas of education, health and low-cost housing.

The planning minister was also pleased to announce that the national school enrollment--classes begin tomorrow with a special ceremony--reached 1,163,480 students; that is, a 32-percent increase over the previous year.

Large projects scheduled for this year include the San Lorenzo dam, the construction and equipping of 8 hospitals and 21 health clinics, the construction of 2,500 rural houses, several urban [road] networks and container piers, the expansion and improvement of the port of Acajutla, the construction of several basic grain storage plants and so forth.

Minister Reyes underscored that the oil price increase will harm the Salvadoran economy just as it will affect those of the other developing countries.

He stressed the efforts being made by President Carlos Humberto Romero's government to limit the inflationary impact on Salvadorans. As specific measures in this regard, he mentioned the reduction of middle class income taxes, which will benefit about 32,000 persons; the increase in social security coverage; the increase in the minimal wage; more efficient utilization of bank loans; the maintenance of electricity, telephone, and water rates; the creation of jobs--it has been estimated that the projects to be implemented in 1979 will employ about 45,000 persons--the exemption of peasants from the taxes on public roads; and the increase of the interest rate on savings deposits.

He added that other measures include the normalization of urban transporation, the subsidizing of staples through the Supply Regulation Institute (IRA) and the maintenance of the system of agricultural land rental.

HONDURAS

GOVERNMENT REQUESTS PANAMANIAN ASYLUM FOR SANDINISTS

PA020053 San Pedro Sula TIEMPO in Spanish 25 Jan 79 p 2 PA

[Text] The Honduran Foreign Affairs Ministry yesterday asked the Panamanian Government to admit 74 members of the Sandinist National Liberation Front (FSLN) who are in custody in Honduras, Leonidas Rosa Bautista, government and justice vice minister, reported.

The Nicaraguan guerrillas came to Honduras as refugees and spent several weeks at the university social center in Tegucigalpa before they decided to ask the government for protection.

This newspaper was told that these persons, who are struggling against Anastasio Somoza's regime, had asked for protection because of brutality and extreme cruelty being inflicted on them by members of the Honduran public security forces.

Last Saturday, 25 guerrillas surrendered to the Honduran immigration authorities, and 49 more did the same 48 hours later. They were all immediately taken to the 11th infantry battalion headquarters in Choluteca.

Rosa Bautista said that the Foreign Affairs Ministry has all the documents necessary to request asylum for the refugees in Panama. He added that the Honduran Government is only waiting for an answer from the Panamanian Government.

When asked if the Nicaraguans were Sandinists or refugees, Rosa Bautista replied: "They all definitely said they were active FSLN guerrillas, and for this reason they asked to be admitted into the country. Later they asked the government to make the arrangements for them to go to Panama."

Finally, he said that in this case as in others, the Honduran Government will follow the same routine in sending them to Panama.

NICARAGUA

LEFTIST GROUPS FORM NATIONAL PATRIOTIC FRONT

PA020405 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0159 GMT 2 Feb 79 PA

[Text] Managua, 1 Feb (ACAN-EFE)--Marimbas were playing in Monimbo, the Indian district in the city of Masaya, while opposition leaders from seven political and labor organizations signed the document forming the National Patriotic Front on Thursday night.

The signing ceremony took place in Joaquin Morales Stadium of the Central American University (UCA) in this capital.

The baseball stadium was packed with an estimated 3,000 persons who attended the ceremony marking the birth of the Patriotic Front which seeks "to overthrow the Somozist regime with the people's support."

The United People Movement, formed by 20 popular organizations of the left; the Social Christian Popular Party; the Independent Liberal Party; the Group of 12; the Radio Reporters Union of Managua; the Workers Front; and the Union of Nicaraguan Workers are the organizations which today formed the National Patriotic Front.

A flag from the Communist Party of Nicaragua was displayed at a strategic point in the stadium, but this organization still has not joined the Patriotic Front. Neither has the Broad Opposition Front (FAO), whose leaders were present at the ceremony. However, it was learned that the FAO is prepared to work in coordination with the National Patriotic Front to achieve common objectives.

The alliance of leftist organizations and other anti-Somozist groups takes place on the day that the National Guard of Nicaragua is commemorating the 83d birthday of the late Gen Anastasio Somoza Garcia, founder of the Somoza dynasty.

Only one act of violence was reported during the ceremony. National Autonomous University of Nicaragua (UNAM) students who tried to march in the street on their way to the stadium were dispersed by the National Guard. The UNAM students did, however, make it to the stadium after the National Guard withdrew.

FSLN LEADER INTERVIEWED BY CUBAN MAGAZINE

PA011950 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 1 Feb 79 PA

[Text] Commander Hugo Torres, of the Sandinist National Liberation Front, FSLN, declared that since the September popular uprising, that organization has assumed the leadership of the revolutionary movement in that Central American country. [sentence as heard]

In an interview with the Cuban weekly BOHEMIA, Commander Torres said U.S. imperialism is trying to impose Somozism without Somoza in Nicaragua and to establish, with the aid of the Broad Opposition Front, a political alternative that will guarantee its interests in that country.

FOUR REPORTED DEAD IN CONTINUING VIOLENCE

PA012325 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1730 GMT 1 Feb 79 PA

[Text] Managua--A drunken soldier went on a shooting spree last night, killing two persons and wounding one in La Paz, a town in central Nicaragua. Meanwhile, in Managua a watchman and a young rebel died during an attack on a business firm.

Juan Santamaria, a watchman, and a guerrilla who has not yet been identified by the military authorities died yesterday during a foiled attack against the (Macho Pasos) commercial firm in eastern Managua. Approximately six armed guerrillas identified as Sandinists entered the store and tried to disarm the watchman, killing him when he tried to pull out his gun.

Two other attacks were also staged in eastern Managua by alleged Sandinist cells which stole money from the real estate and finance offices of the national savings and loans system. The amount of money stolen has not yet been officially disclosed.

In Jinotepe, 45 km south of Managua, it was reported that Professor Venicio Herrera, a member of the local human rights commission, was arrested on charges of having participated in an attack staged on Wednesday against the home of the daughter of a government official.

With regard to the death of a group of peasants who were being held a few days ago at the country's northwestern jail and were later found dead in a wooded area, the newspaper LA PRENSA affirms that it has a recording of internal army communications which proves that the peasants had been captured by the military patrols which are pursuing Sandinist guerrillas in the mountains.

COMMUNIQUE ISSUED ON FOREIGN MINISTER MALMIERCA'S GDR VISIT

For East Berlin ADN international service coverage of the communique issued on Foreign Minister Malmierca's 24-26 January visit to the GDR, see the 2 February Eastern Europe DAILY REPORT.

MALMIERCA ADDRESSES NONALINED BUREAU MEETING IN MAPUTO

For Havana domestic service reportage on Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca's speech before the plenary session of the nonalined countries Coordinating Bureau meeting in Maputo, Mozambique, which was officially opened 31 January, see the Southern Africa section of the 2 February Sub-Saharan Africa DAILY REPORT.

CUBA, USSR SIGN 1979 TRADE PROTOCOL

FL020017 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 2 Feb 79 FL

[Text] Cuba and the Soviet Union have signed a protocol for trade in 1979 between the two states amounting to more than 4 billion rubles or the equivalent of more than $6 billion.

The protocol was signed in Moscow by Soviet First Deputy Minister of Foreign Trade Mikhail Kuzmin and Cuban First Vice Minister of Foreign Trade German Amado Blanco. Soviet Deputy Minister Mikhail Kuzmin declared that trade between Cuba and the USSR doubled during the first 4 years of the current 5-year period. He said that commercial relations between the two countries are being strengthened, pointing out that this year's protocol is of great significance because it embodies the spirit of relations between our peoples, parties and governments and between our maximum leaders, Fidel Castro and Leonid Brezhnev.

For his part, German Amado Blanco noted that commercial exchanges between the two countries are fundamental and of vital importance for Cuba. The documents we have just signed, he asserted, demonstrate, as Councils of State and Ministers President Fidel Castro has pointed out, the exemplary relations that exist between Cuba and the Soviet Union, two states and peoples that are pursuing the same objective.

MARINELLO PRAISES SOVIET, CEMA SCIENTIFIC AID

FL011246 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 1 Feb 79 FL

[Text] Zoilo Marinello, president of the Cuban State Committee for Science and Technology of the Council of Ministers, has stated in Moscow that Cuban relations with the other CEMA members are developing very fruitfully. In an interview with the TASS news agency, Marinello stated that cooperation between Cuban and Soviet specialists covers all of the most important sectors of the national economy, from air and space research to joint work in the struggle against contamination of the sea. Marinello said that for all practical purposes, before the triumph of the revolution, Cuba did not have a scientific base. Now there are more than 100 scientific research centers and over 3,500 scientists in our country. The USSR and other fraternal countries help us develop this area.

CULTURE DAYS END IN USSR; HART DEPARTS

FL311524 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1502 GMT 31 Jan 79 FL

[Text] Cuban Culture Minister Armando Hart Davalos, member of the PCC Central Committee Politburo, has left to return to our country following a visit to the USSR, during which he participated in the Cuban culture events in commemoration of the 20th anniversary of the revolution. Hart spoke at the inaugural evening ceremony which was held at the Palace of Congress in the Kremlin on 23 January, and he visited some of the Soviet republics and met with Soviet culture leaders.

Soviet Culture Minister Petr Demichev and Cuban Ambassador to the USSR Severo Aguirre del Cristo were on hand to bid farewell to Armando Hart Davalos. Lastly the PRENSA LATINA cable states that the days of Cuban culture in the USSR will conclude tomorrow, Thursday, 1 February, with a program at the Bolshoi--the great theater--of Moscow.

ROCA CHAIRS STUDY MEETING ON YOUTH PROBLEMS

FL020148 Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 2 Feb 79 FL

[Text] Blas Roca, member of the PCC Politburo and president of the People's Government National Assembly, chaired a meeting in Havana City this afternoon which marked the beginning of a study of the problems of youths ages 13 to 16 who are not studying, and on the use of free time by children and youths.

Working groups composed of political, cultural and educational organizations will fulfill a plan of activities divided into three phases for the purpose of submitting recommendations on both topics to the standing committee of attention to children and youth of the People's Government National Assembly.

The first group that will cooperate in the studies on youths ages 13 to 16 not participating in the national education system is chaired by Reynaldo Perez, deputy to the People's Government National Assembly, and it includes the Education Ministry, Committees for the Defense of the Revolution, Union of Young Communists (UJC) Interior Ministry, National Association of Small Farmers (ANAP) and Federation of Cuban Women (FMC).

Deputy Carlos Lage is chairman of the group that will study the problem of the free time of youths and children. This group is composed of 13 organizations which will have the UJC; National Institute for Sports, Physical Education and Recreation; Ministry of Culture; and Organization of Pioneers as their executive group.

This afternoon's meeting also was chaired by FMC President Vilma Espin, ANAP President Jose Ramirez Cruz and UJC National Committee First Secretary Luis Orlando Dominguez, all of them members of the PCC Central Committee.

KOREA REUNIFICATION CONFERENCE HELD HERE

PA271700 Paris AFP in English 1451 GMT 27 Jan 79 PA

[Excerpt] Georgetown, Guyana, 26 Jan (AFP)--The international Latin American Caribbean conference to support the reunification of Korea got underway in this South American republic today.

Parliamentary Affairs Minister Cammie Ramsaroop in an opening address emphasised the necessity for the peaceful and independent reunification of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) and South Korea.

Ramsaroop is also chairman of the ruling People's National Congress (PNC) led by Prime Minister Forbes Burnham.

PPP URGES WORKERS TO PRESSURE GOVERNMENT TO RESIGN

FL292005 Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 24 Jan 79 p 3 FL

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, Tuesday (CANA)--Guyana's opposition People's Progressive Party (PPP) has called on workers to pressure the government into resigning.

In a statement released here after a two-day central committee meeting, the PPP restated its commitment to formation of a national patriotic government--a suggestion long rejected by the Forbes Burnham administration, which said it would not achieve genuine mass unity.

The PPP said it was for a political solution to Guyana's problems, urging citizens to redouble efforts to see that this happened.

These (efforts) should be concentrated on forcing the government to resign and for the formation of a national patriotic government, and new elections this year, preceded by local government elections.

"Needless to say, such elections must be held after the necessary electoral reforms have been made."

The meeting reviewed developments during the last year, focussing on the mass murder-suicide of more than 900 People's Temple members, a G$20 million one-year stand-by credit offered by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and what the PPP said was support given the administration by the Trades Union Congresss(TUC).

The PPP urged that a forthcoming public enquiry into the tragedy should be broad-based.

The PPP also said that the IMF loan agreement meant that the government had yielded to harsh terms and "decided to put the burden on the backs of the working people," with subsidies being cut, unemployment and living costs on the increase, and workers pay dwindling.

The party declared that the labour movement now had to either continue to side with the administration or discharge "its responsibilities to the workers."

"It is now up to the workers to force the TUC leadership to abandon its betrayal of their cause and to unreservedly take their side," the PPP said.

At the same time, the PPP commended the TUC for its late 1978 decision to call for a political solution to the problems of Guyana.